Welcome to the Virginia School Safety Survey

This is a secure, web-based survey conducted by the Virginia Center for School Safety. Submission of this survey fulfills the Virginia School Safety Audit requirement. (Virginia Code §22.1-279.8).

While answering the following survey questions, please base your responses on the conditions in your school during the 2005 - 2006 school year.

Should you have any questions about this survey or if you are experiencing a technical problem, please contact Donna Bowman at the Virginia Center for School Safety, 804-371-6506 or donna.bowman@dcjs.virginia.gov.

Please answer the following questions about your school as accurately as possible.

I. School Identification and Demographic Information

1. What is the full name of your school?
(no nicknames or abbreviations, please)

2. What is your division?
(select from drop-down list)

Select

3. What is your school's I.D. number?
(use this link to look up your DOE-assigned, four-digit school I.D. number)

If we have any questions about your survey responses, we would like to be able to contact you. Please provide us with your contact information:

4. What is your name?

5. What is your title?

6. What is your phone number?

7. What is your e-mail address?

8. Which of the following best describes your school?
(check one)

- ⬚ elementary
- ⬚ middle
- ⬚ high
- ⬚ combined
- ⬚ primary
- ⬚ pre-K
- ⬚ alternative
- ⬚ career/technical/vocational

- ⬚ charter
- ⬚ magnet
- ⬚ Governor's
- ⬚ special education
- ⬚ correctional education
- ⬚ adult education
- ⬚ deaf and blind

- ⬚ other (describe):

8a. As an alternative school, what is your school's primary function?
(check one)

☐ disciplinary

☐ academic assistance

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

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9. What grades are taught at your school?
(check all that apply)

☐ Pre-K   ☐ 6th grade

☐ Kindergarten   ☐ 7th grade

☐ 1st grade   ☐ 8th grade

☐ 2nd grade   ☐ 9th grade

☐ 3rd grade   ☐ 10th grade

☐ 4th grade   ☐ 11th grade

☐ 5th grade   ☐ 12th grade

10. What was your fall membership enrollment number at the start of the 2005 - 2006 school year?
(enter numeric response)

[   ]

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11. School setting: Which setting best describes the area where your school is located?
(check one)

☐ urban

☐ suburban

☐ exurban

☐ rural

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

II. Crisis Management Plan (CMP)/Emergency Managment Plan (EMP)

Virginia Code §22.1-279.8 describes school crisis and emergency management plans. It also states that "each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis and emergency management plan,"

12. How was your school's CMP/EMP been practiced/implemented during the 2005 - 2006 school year?
(check all that apply)

☐ administration/faculty/staff training

☐ student training/awareness

☐ parental training/awareness

☐ first responder coordination (EMS, fire, police, hazmat, etc.)

☐ table-top exercises with crisis team members

☐ full scale drill with crisis team and public safety partners

☐ has not yet been implemented

13. Did any outside experts provide assistance in preparing your school's CMP/EMP?

☐ Yes

☐ No

13a. Who provided this assistance?

(check all that apply) (NOTE: If one person qualifies as three different "experts" on the list, ex. - a local law enforcement officer who is a CPS and SRO - please check only one of this person's qualifications, preferably the most specialized and relevant.)

☐ private consultant

☐ school resource officer (SRO)

☐ school security officer (SSO)

☐ private security officer

☐ crime prevention specialist (CPS)

☐ local law enforcement officer

☐ fire official

☐ emergency medical staff (EMS)

☐ hazmat officials

☐ other (describe):

[ ]

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14. Does your school have an automated electronic notification system for notifying parents/guardians of an emergency at your school?

○ Yes

○ No

14a. Have you ever had to use, or have you ever tested, your school's automated notification system?

○ Yes

○ No

14a (1). On average, how long does it take for your automated notification system to attempt to contact all parents/guardians? (check one)

○ less than 30 minutes

○ 30 - 59 minutes

○ 60 - 90 minutes

○ over 90 minutes

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15. Does your school have an off-site facility (or an agreement with an off-site facility) that can be used as shelter during a school evacuation?

○ Yes

○ No

16. How often are lockdown drills practiced during the school year? (check one)

○ once a month

○ twice a year

○ once a year

○ once every two years

○ never

○ once every two months

○ other (describe):

[ ]

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17. What is the usual method used at your school to account for students during a lockdown or evacuation drill? (check one)

○ conduct head count using attendance roster

○ automated monitoring system (such as scanning student ID cards)

○ none

○ other (describe):

[ ]

18. Does your school use a numbering system at all exterior entrances/exits of your building(s), visible from a distance of 200 feet, so that they can be easily identified?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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19. Does your school have classrooms that are not on ground-level (such as in a basement or on a second floor, etc.?)

☐ Yes

☐ No

19a. Are all non-ground level classrooms equipped with an external means to evacuate the room if necessary (i.e., ladder, rope ladder, fire escape)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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20. What areas of your school have two-way communication with the main office?
(check all that apply)

☐ all classrooms   ☐ security/SRO office

☐ remote classrooms ☐ school buses/school vehicles

☐ gymnasium   ☐ driver-education vehicles

☐ locker rooms   ☐ off-site venues

☐ cafeteria   ☐ all non-remote classrooms

☐ auditorium   ☐ none - our school has no 2-way communication

☐ athletic fields

☐ other (describe):

[_____]

20a. What type(s) of two-way communication system(s) does your school use?
(check all that apply)

☐ intercom   ☐ alarm button

☐ telephone   ☐ two-way radio

☐ cellular phone   ☐ walkie-talkie

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

20b. Are students able to use these two-way communication system(s) in an emergency?

○ Yes

○ No

21. Has your school clearly designated what part(s) of your Crisis Management Plan/Emergency Management Plan should be exempted from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests (in order to protect sensitive, security-related information from public access)?

○ Yes

○ No

III. Student/Staff Safety

22. Does your school have a reporting program that permits students to anonymously report crimes, threats, or potential dangers?

○ Yes

○ No

22a. What sort of anonymous reporting procedure/program is it?
(check all that apply)

☐ telephone hotline

☐ written submission (via dropbox)

☐ on-line submission

☐ law enforcement-based program (i.e., Crime Stoppers)

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

22b. Approximately how many anonymous reports were submitted by students in the 2005 - 2006 school year?
(check one)

☐ 0

☐ 1 - 5

☐ 6 - 10

☐ 11 - 20

☐ 21 - 40

☐ 41 - 60

☐ 61 - 100

☐ over 100

☐ don't know

23. Did your school distribute an anonymous questionnaire to students in the 2005 - 2006 school year to assess student school safety concerns?

☐ Yes

☐ No

23a. Did you question all students or a representative sample?
(check one)

○ all students

○ representative sample

○ other (describe):

[   ]

23b. What type of questionnaire/survey did you use?
(check all that apply)

☐ questionnaire/survey created in-house

☐ other type of questionnaire/survey (describe):

[   ]

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24. Did your school distribute an anonymous questionnaire to parents in the 2005 - 2006 school year to assess their school safety concerns?

○ Yes

○ No

24a. Did you question all parents or a representative sample?
(check one)

○ all parents

○ representative sample

○ other (describe):

[   ]

24b. What type of questionnaire/survey did you use?
(check all that apply)

☐ questionnaire/survey created in-house

☐ other type of questionnaire/survey (describe):

[   ]

25. Did your school distribute an anonymous questionnaire to faculty/staff in the 2005 - 2006 school year to assess their school safety concerns?

☐ Yes

☐ No

25a. Did you question all faculty/staff or a representative sample?
(check one)

☐ all faculty/staff

☐ representative sample

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

25b. What type of questionnaire/survey did you use?
(check all that apply)

☐ questionnaire/survey created in-house

☐ other type of questionnaire/survey (describe):

[   ]

26. Does your school use a [formal threat assessment](#) process to respond to student threats of violence?

☐ Yes

☐ No

26a. How many threats were assessed during school year 2005 - 2006?

[   ]

26b. How many of these threats were determined to be viable or substantive?

[   ]

27. Do you have someone on your staff whose job is specifically to prevent truancy (such as a school attendance officer)?

◻ Yes

◻ No

28. Does local law enforcement assist in the investigation of your school's chronic truancy cases (includes SROs, SSOs, etc.?)

◻ Yes

◻ No

29. Did your school identify any racist or hate-related language/symbols in graffiti found on school property during the 2005 - 2006 school year?

◻ Yes

◻ No

30. Did your school identify any gang-related graffiti found on school property during the 2005 - 2006 school year?

◻ Yes

◻ No

IV. School Security / Surveillance

The questions in this section of the survey ask about security practices at your school. Because the public release of such information might compromise safety and security plans, Virginia Code §2.2-3705.2 and §22.1-279.8 allow schools to designate such information as protected from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). To obtain this protection, schools must specifically request this protection when they report school safety information to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

DCJS recommends that you consider designating the information you provide in this section of the survey as "protected from release" under FOIA. At the end of this section, you will be asked whether or not you would like to protect your responses - check "yes" if you want your information to be protected from release under FOIA, and "no" if you do not want your information to be protected. Understand that DCJS' Virginia Center for School Safety will report the information in this section in an aggregated format for all schools, but it will not release specific information from identified schools if they have requested that their information be protected from public release under FOIA.

31. Did your school conduct any safety audit procedures other than this survey in school year 2005 - 2006?

☐ Yes

☐ No

31a. What type(s) of safety audit procedures does your school conduct?
(check all that apply)

☐ Department of Education's School Safety Audit Protocol checklist

☐ school safety team inspection

☐ inspection by private contractor

☐ inspection by designated school district staff

☐ threat / risk assessment process

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

32. Are all unlocked entrances to your school building/campus monitored at all times during school hours?

☐ Yes

☐ No

32a. How are these entrances monitored?
(check all that apply)

☐   school security personnel (SRO, SSO, private security)

☐   administration

☐   faculty / staff

☐   school volunteer

☐   student

☐   security / video camera (monitored live)

☐   security / video camera (taped, not monitored live)

☐   other (describe):

[   ]

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33. Is the main entrance to your school building/campus monitored at all times during school hours by someone who acts as an entrance monitor or greeter?

○   Yes

○   No

33a. Who staffs the position of main entrance monitor/greeter?
(check one)

○   school security personnel (SRO, SSO, private security)

○   administrative staff

○   faculty/staff

○   school volunteer

○   student

○   other (describe):

[   ]

34. Are visitors to your school required to check in at the school office or front entrance upon entering the building/campus? (This includes parents/guardians/delivery personnel, etc.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

34a. What is required of visitors when they check in?
(check all that apply)

☐ all school visitors must sign in

☐ all school visitors must show photo identification

☐ other (describe):

[ ]

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35. Which of the following persons are required to wear visible school-issued ID badges or tags while on school property?
(check all that apply)

☐ faculty   ☐ substitute teachers

☐ staff   ☐ vendors

☐ students   ☐ visitors (includes parents/guardians/delivery personnel, etc.)

☐ administrators   ☐ volunteers

☐ county/division personnel ☐ no ID badges or tags are required

☐ other (describe):

[ ]

36. Which of the following background checks do you conduct on all volunteers who work with students at your school (including parents)?
(check all that apply)

☐ criminal background check

☐ sex offender registry check

☐ no background checks are conducted

☐ other (describe):

[ ]

37. Is your school registered to receive relevant updates on local sex offenders from the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Registry database?

☐ Yes

☐ No

38. Can all classrooms in your school be locked, even when not in use?

☐ Yes

☐ No

39. How are security/surveillance cameras used to monitor the exterior of your school building?
(check one)

☐ monitored at all times

☐ monitored during school hours only

☐ monitored after school hours only

☐ taped, not monitored in real time

☐ our school does not have an exterior security/surveillance camera

40. How are security/surveillance cameras used to monitor the interior of your school building?
(check one)

☐ monitored at all times

☐ monitored during school hours only

☐ monitored after school hours only

☐ taped, not monitored in real time

☐ our school does not have an interior security/surveillance system

41. How are school parking lots monitored at your school during school hours?
(check all that apply)

☐ school security personnel (SRO, SSO, private security)

☐ security camera (live, monitored in real time)

☐ security camera (taped, not monitred in real time)

☐ administrative staff

☐ faculty/staff

☐ school volunteer

☐ student

☐ we have no formal surveillance of parking lots during school hours

☐ other (describe):

[   ]

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42. Are school security personnel (SROs, SSOs, or private security) present at your school at all times during the regular school day?

○ Yes

○ No

42a. How many School Resource Officers (SROs) are at your school at all times during the regular school day?
(enter numerical response)

[   ]

42b. How many School Security Officers (SSOs) are at your school at all times during the regular school day?
(enter numerical response)

[   ]

42c. How many private security personnel are at your school at all times during the regular school day?
(enter numerical response)

[   ]

Virginia Code definition: §18.2-46.1 Criminal street gang means "any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, (i) which has as one of its primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more criminal activities, (ii) which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and (iii) whose members individually or collectively have engaged in the commission of, attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more predicate criminal acts, at least one of which is an act of violence, provided such acts were not part of a common act or transaction."

43. Have your school staff observed any identifiable gangs/gang members among your student population during the 2005 - 2006 school year?

◯ Yes

◯ No

43a. How many different gangs were observed?
(enter numeric response)

[   ]

43b. How many gang members were observed?
(enter numeric response)

[   ]

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44. FOIA: Now that you have read and responded to the questions in this section of the survey (IV. School Security/Surveillance), would you like to designate your responses to these questions as "protected from release" under FOIA?

◯ Yes

◯ No